Merger of MTNL and BSNL

†375. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-merger or delay in merger of public sector undertakings—BSNL and MTNL;

(b) whether Government propose to take a final decision for merger of these two public sector undertakings;

(c) if so, by when the said merger would take place; and

(d) if not, the extensive details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the Government has appointed the Consultants to suggest best option for bringing synergy of operations between two public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) - BSNL and MTNL and not necessary for merger of two PSUs.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Talks on subsidy on agricultural exports

†376. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether discussions were held to withdraw the subsidy being provided on all kinds of exports including on agricultural exports in the Summit of G-8 nations held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its likely impact on India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.